

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(Currently amended): A vehicle roof support, comprising:

an elongated base member having a roughly T-shaped cross-sectional shape;
a chord having a roughly T-shaped cross-sectional shape disposed in a common plane with respect to the elongated base member and spaced from the elongated base member along a portion of the lengths of the members;
and
a support element disposed between the elongated base member and the chord joining the elongated base member to the chord.

2.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

the chord and the elongated base member each comprising an upright member corresponding to the upright of the T and a cross member corresponding to the upper cross bar of the T.

3.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

the chord having a contoured profile allowing a side of the cross member to fit against an underside of a vehicle roof.

4.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 3, the elongated base member further comprising an elongated pocket nestled to one side of the upright member at a juncture between the upright member and cross member.

5.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 4, the support element comprising a plurality of gussets.

6.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

the plurality of gussets being oriented to lie in the common plane of alignment of the chord and the elongated base member and extending from points of connection between the gussets and the upright members of the elongated base member and the chord, respectively.

7.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

several of the plurality of gussets including notches along side thereof to define frames for conduits to pass through the vehicle roof support element.

8.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 7, further comprising an elongated hook along an edge of each gusset which is shaped to cooperate with the elongated pocket.

9.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 3, the support element further comprising one or sheet sections.

10.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 9, the elongated base member further comprising an elongated pocket nestled to one side of the upright member at a juncture between the upright member and cross member.

11.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

the sheet section including a notch into one edge defining a frame for a conduit to pass.

12.(Original): A vehicle roof support as set forth in claim 11, further comprising an elongated hook along an edge of the sheet section.

13.(Currently amended): A rafter comprising:

a lower rail and an upper rail, each being of sufficient length to extend from side to side of a roof of a vehicle;

the lower and the upper rail each comprising a cross member and an upright member, the upper member extending outwardly perpendicular from one face of the cross member, the upper and lower rails being disposed in a common plane with their respective upright members extending toward one another across an opening of varying width;

at least a first member attached to the upright members and extending between the lower and upper rails to join the upper and lower rails to one another; and

the cross member of the upper rail having a second face curved to fit against an underside surface of the roof of a vehicle.

14.(Original): A rafter as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

the lower rail comprising an elongated pocket defined between one side of the upright member and a side of the cross member to one side of the upright

member.

15.(Original): A rafter as claimed in claim 14, said at least first member further comprising an elongated hook along an edge thereof for insertion into the elongated pocket for cooperation with the elongated pocket aiding retention of the gusset with respect to the lower rail.

16.(Original): A rafter as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

 said at least first member being among a plurality of gussets; and

 at least a first pair of the plurality of gussets being notched along adjacent edges to define a frame for a conduit to be passed through the rafter.

17.(Original): A rafter as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

 the upper and lower rails being extruded.

18.(Original): A rafter as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

 said at least first member being a sheet section; and

 the sheet section gussets being notched to define a frame for a conduit to be passed through the rafter.